

Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28), Chair of the House Rules Committee celebrated the House's passage of the historic health care legislation noting that after a year of debate, this legislation passed is good for Western New York.

The vote on the Senate bill and the legislative fixes known as reconciliation passed the House by votes of 219-212 and 220-111 respectively.

"In my district, more than 12,000 small businesses and up to 180,000 families will receive a tax credit to help them afford health care coverage," said Slaughter. "9,000 seniors in my district fall into the Medicare Part D donut hole each year. That will end, as will preventing 7,600 of my constituents with preexisting conditions from getting the care they deserve.

"Today's bill has something in it for everyone. We make it easier to get insurance if you don't have it, and for the 338,000 of my constituents who have private insurance, they will no longer be susceptible to lifetime or yearly caps that would deny them the treatment they need. This reform is good for Western New York and it's good for America."

For a detailed breakdown of benefits to the residents of the 28th district, [click here](#) .

Earlier in the day, Slaughter opened the historic debate on the urgent need for health care reform as she brought the stories from her constituents to the House floor.

"This bill is the right thing to do and the time to act is now," she said. "Our bill covers an estimated 32 million Americans in a fiscally responsible way that improves Medicare benefits, holds insurance companies accountable and helps small business owners with coverage. We are finally gaining ground against insurance special interests."

As she spoke on the floor, Slaughter displayed a letter President Roosevelt sent to Congress on

January 23, 1939 asking them to making national health insurance part of his social security plan. The National Archives provided the copy which contains his notes in the margins.

Slaughter said the letter from Roosevelt, who was Governor of New York State from 1929-1932, is “a reminder that the eyes of history are watching us and that future generations will look at what we do today as a guidepost to who we are as a people.”

She spoke of a constituent in Buffalo who has to drive his epileptic son to New York City for the care he needs. His insurance company only covers emergency room visits and his son’s preexisting condition prevents him from switching insurance companies. His words to Congresswoman Slaughter: “we are slowly going poor.”

Slaughter said today’s historic legislation will transform the way we deliver health care in this country.